

October 25, 1949.

Dr. Leland W. Parr,
George Washington University
Dept. of Bacteriology,
Washington 5, D.C.

Dear Dr. Parr:

Thank you very much for your kind letter and for sending the two ampoules of the Garrett coli strain. However, I hope that these were not all you had desiccated, because, unfortunately, the ampoules were smashed in the mails.

I tried, nevertheless, to reisolate the strain, and spread the glass fragments on an EMB plate. Lactose + and lactose-negative organisms came up, but the latter turned out not to be mutabile, so I doubt that they could have been the strain I was looking for. Deere's description of the Garrett coli-mutabile implied that they reverted to Lac+ very readily.

If you do have a further remnant of this culture, I would appreciate it very much if you could send it to me again. I will be glad to maintain it here, or have it lyophilized, if you want its preservation assured.

May I enquire what technique you have been using for the drying and preservation of bacteria? I am particularly curious about the drying agent that can be incorporated in the same space as the bacterial deposit. Is it silica gel?

With sincere thanks,

Sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg